

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received JUN 2 1987

date entered OCT 27 1987

**1. Name**

historic Nathaniel H. Burt House

and or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 400 Fifth Avenue

not for publication

city, town Leavenworth

vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Leavenworth

code 103

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Leah J. Stevens - McCollum

street & number 400 Fifth Avenue

city, town Leavenworth

vicinity of

state Kansas 66048

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Leavenworth County Clerk

street & number Leavenworth County Courthouse

city, town Leavenworth

state Kansas 66048

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Leavenworth Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1986 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West 10th Street

city, town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Nathaniel Henry Burt House (c. 1895) is located at 400 Fifth Avenue in Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas (pop. 33,656). A dwelling and a circa 1920 auxiliary building are sited on a corner lot; both buildings have a front orientation facing east. The Burt House is a two and one-half story, three bay, dark red/brown brick structure with varying roof shapes which include a truncated hip as the primary form. Secondary roof forms are conicle, gable and shed. Architect William P. Feth's Romanesque design is representative of architectural style of the last decade of the nineteenth century, especially of the style attributed to H. H. Richardson. Overall plan and massing of the house are irregular as is typical of Victorian period architecture, however, this building's plan contains the more "blocky" classical and rounded forms of the latter part of the period. The one and one-half story, three bay, brick auxiliary building, which is a detached garage, echoes the design of the dwelling; its location on the site is directly west (and behind) the main building. Dimensions of the house are approximately fifty-four feet by sixty-five feet (north and east elevations); the garage is approximately forty-two feet by twenty-six feet.

Coursed, ashlar, native limestone is the material of the base of the dwelling. The foundation wall is separated from the upper, English bond, brick walls by a smooth cut, limestone water table. Three string courses of brick wrap the building above second story windows. Ornamental brickwork appears around dormers and between first and second story windows on the center bay of the front elevation. A boxed cornice, which is above a plain brick entablature, curves the rounded corners on front and south elevations. The cornice is decorated with a row of dentils (in relief).

Most of the building's rectangular window openings contain double-hung 1/1 units and have smooth cut stone lintels and sills. Windows are of various sizes and configurations. An asphalt shingled roof is punctuated with gable-roofed dormers on front and both side elevations. Three chimneys have brick pots with brick coursing near the top. A one story, frame porch with Colonial Revival details is attached to the front elevation. A rear porch on the south elevation also has Colonial Revival elements.

The building's three bay, front elevation has a large, projecting, rounded center bay. Window placement is identical on both first and second stories except on the north end bay where paired square windows on the second floor line up above the double door entry of the first floor. The porch forms a veranda across the entire front elevation and is roofed on the end bays only. The porch foundation and square posts are ashlar cut limestone. A wood bannister with turned balustrades runs between the stone posts. Wrought iron grillwork covers three large openings in the center bay's foundation. Triple, corner and paired, center wood columns of Colonial Revival design support a molded and dentiled (cont.) entablature, boxed molded cornice and a shingled shed roof (which become a hip roof on the south corner where the porch continues onto the side elevation). The double entry which has paneled, oak doors, is tucked in the corner of the north and projecting center bays. Above the entry is a gable-roofed dormer which contains paired, double hung windows that are topped with segmented transom windows.

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Emphasis is given to the dormers with projecting, decorative, brick posts on the corners and with a stonecapped gable peak. The center bay contains one of the dwellings three decorative chimneys.

The south elevation is comprised of five bays--the projecting bay of the front elevations, a primary bay which is the south wing, an oriel, a two story rear wing, and a one story wing. The front porch is attached as far as approximately one-third of the east end of the primary bay. There are steps that enter the porch at this point (on the west elevation). Window treatment is similar to the front. A dormer is centered in the roof of the south wing bay. The oriel, located in the corner where south and rear wings join, is perched atop a brick pedestal; it has double-hung glass transoms. Paneled pilasters between window openings, paneling above and below windows, and a conicle roof provide further ornamentation of the oriel. A two story porch, which is screened on the second story, is attached to the west two-thirds of the west end of the rear wing; its structural members have classic detailing.

A five bay west elevation is the building's rear. It is comprised of the one-story porch on the southeast corner of the dwelling, the south wing, oriel, the two-story rear wing and the one-story rear wing. There is a single door entry centered in the one-story wing. One of the building's decorative chimneys projects from the roof of the west wall of the south wing. Other than the two story porch and oriel, this elevation is unremarkable as to other ornamentation.

A four bay, north elevation consists of the one story rear wing, the two story rear wing, a primary bay and the circular, projecting, front bay. There is a dormer on the primary bay which is identical to that on the south elevation.

The interior is accessed through a double entry which has paneled, oak doors. Double doors with large glass panels separate a vestibule from a large (22'x13') reception hall which is the most elaborately appointed room in the dwelling. Ornamentation of this room includes a columned inglenook with tile-faced fireplace, a carved staircase with its landing in the oriel (a Richard Morris Hunt influence), and classically designed plaster molding and garland reliefs. The classical theme is carried throughout the house with wide, molded woodwork and paneled doors. Floors are either of oak, yellow pine or rock maple. Woodwork of individual rooms is either yellow pine, oak or birdseye maple. Ceiling height is nine feet.

Double pocket doors lead off the hall into three rooms of the first floor; on the right to the dining room, on the left to the library and to the front to the drawing room. The dining room features paneled wainscotting. A focal point of the library is an original carved mantel and built-in bookcase (a later addition) on the west wall. The drawing room is partially contained in the plan of the rounded center bay of the front elevation; woodwork, fireplace mantel and door veneer are all of birdseye maple.

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A single door in the entry hall, which is located on the west wall to the right of the inglenook, leads to a hallway which contains another staircase. Rooms off this hallway are the kitchen/service rooms and a bathroom.

The second floor plan contains a spacious upper hallroom with large bedrooms to the right, left (master bedroom) and front. There are entrances to a circa 1920s period bathroom and the rear hall on the west wall of the hallroom. Doorways from the hall access a bedroom, a sewing room, and a screened porch. The bedroom in this rear wing was used as servants quarters when the house was built for the Burt family.

Both the interior and exterior of the house maintain a high degree of historic integrity. The property's current environment is much the same as when the house was occupied by Nathaniel Burt, his wife and two sons from 1895 to the early 1920s when the neighborhood was being fully developed. It remains part of a primarily residential area of moderate and upper economic level dwellings. Changes that have occurred are, the predictable updating of buildings, some conversions of single family to multi-family units, and the construction of Cushing Memorial Hospital (c. 1920 & 1980) on the north one-third of the block the Burt house also occupies.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c. 1895

**Builder/Architect** William Pratt Feth

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nathaniel H. Burt House (c. 1895) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as the residence of one of the city's early and influential industrial families (criteria B) and as a locally unique representation of architectural design of the late nineteenth century (criteria C). Encompassing both criteria, the building also is associated with architect, William Pratt Feth (1866–1959), who designed the dwelling incorporating characteristics of two American architects of the period, H. H. Richardson and Richard Morris Hunt.

Leavenworth which was incorporated in 1854, was by 1870, the largest city west of St. Louis. Its establishment and first decade and a half of growth centered around commerce which supported both military and private activities in the settlement of the west. By late 1860, however, the economy began focusing on industry. At first, manufactured items were to meet the needs of commerce (i.e., wagons, bridges) and land development, then gradually they were to meet the material needs of settlers. The Great Western Foundry was established in 1858 as one of the city's first industries. The company began producing stoves in 1866 and by 1875 the high volume demand for them warranted a division of the company; the Great Western Stove Company was formed for the exclusive manufacturing of the product. E. P. Willson, who became associated with the foundry in 1870, was appointed president and Nathaniel Henry Burt, secretary. By 1880, the company was producing 25,000 stoves per year and in 1887 it had built and was occupying two large industrial buildings separate from the parent company, by then renamed Great Western Manufacturing Company. Both Great Western companies were important to the economic vitality of the city and its citizens. Their buildings occupied two entire city blocks (adjacent to the C.B.D.) and were prominent elements of the cityscape. Great Western Stove shipped stoves, among them the popular "Banquet" model, to markets throughout Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa for over fifty years. Although the impetus for industrial growth slowed in Leavenworth after 1890, both companies continued to be major employers in the city until the depression of the early 1930s. (Note: Great Western Manufacturing revived after the years of the depression. It still operates producing commercial flour sifters in a recently acquired, more modern facility).

Nathaniel Burt (1847–1923) first came to Leavenworth in 1872, probably from his native state of New York, working as a travel agent for the Brace and Bahn Company. He apparently left the city the following year and returned in 1875 when he became associated with the Great Western Stove Company. After working for the firm for ten years, he became its treasurer and in 1911 became president.

In 1895, Burt built his house on Fifth Avenue and moved into it with his wife and two sons. He employed the then twenty-eight year old architect, William Pratt Feth, who had just returned to his native Leavenworth from architectural schooling in Chicago (1885) and eight years of training in Chicago (1886–90) and Denver (1890–95). Feth designed a residence for his client in a style befitting the life of the prominent city businessman.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Leavenworth

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	3	3	4	8	6	0	4	3	5	2	2	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property stands on Lots 1, 2, 3 and the south 17' of Lot 4, Carroll's Subdivision, Leavenworth, Kansas. The .86 acre tract is bounded to the east by Fifth Avenue, to the south by Scott Street, and to the north and west by adjacent property lines.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Jo Winder - Consultant

organization

date December 18, 1986

street & number 600 Miami Street, Apt. 4

telephone 913-651-7173

city or town Leavenworth

state Kansas 66048

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

     national      state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date May 14, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Carol O. Shull*

date 10-27-87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The theme he used was the adaptation of Romanesque Revival elements to residential buildings which had been introduced by H. H. Richardson for his wealthy clients on the east coast. The architecture, which emphasized solidity and geometric form, was a likely choice for Burt. Feth's vernacular design incorporated the elements of material, form, ornamentation and feeling of the famous Richardson, fanciful elements such as the ornamented dormers and oriel of Richard Morris Hunt, and Colonial Revival elements that made an architectural resurgence at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Feth designed many buildings, both commercial and residential, in Leavenworth after his return in 1895. He was the architect for the AXA Building of 1905 (N.R. 1971), the Masonic Temple of 1914 and the Leavenworth County Courthouse of 1913. (Note: The courthouse was constructed on the same foundation that his father, Philip, built for the original courthouse that burned in 1911). Feth's obituary also attributed buildings in Omaha, Denver, Seattle and Kansas City to him. A son, Myron (1893-1976) joined his father as a draftsman in 1915 after one year at the University of Pennsylvania School of Architects. The firm of Feth and Feth was responsible for the designs of many of Leavenworth's (still existing) buildings until 1930 when William retired and Myron became architect at Fort Leavenworth. Leavenworth's City Hall of 1925, East Junior High School, Nettie Harnett School and many residences located on Broadway south of Spruce Street were designed by the firm.

The site of the nominated property was, until 1895, a part of the Edward Carroll Estate (Edward Carroll House, N.R. 1986) which was subdivided and platted in 1894. Burt purchased three lots and part of a fourth just to the south of the Carroll house for \$5,000 and constructed the present dwelling. In 1915, he acquired a tract of land west of his property and presumably, constructed the auxiliary building. When he died in 1923, Burt's oldest son, Nathaniel Pratt Burt inherited the house and property. A younger son, Eugene, was deeded property south of Scott Street (adjacent to the nominated property's south boundary) between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Both sons were involved in and inherited their father's interest in the Great Western Stove Company. Nathaniel P. Burt resided in the dwelling until his death in 1960. His widow, Dorothy Gordon Burt, sold it in 1962 to Robert G. and Daphne M. Munding. From 1965 to 1972, the house was owned by Charles W. and Louise M. Moore and from 1972 to 1985, by Robert E. and Audrey R. Wallis. It was purchased by the present owners, Dr. Lea J. Stevens-McCollum, in 1985.

The Nathaniel Burt house is the most architecturally intact residential building in the city of Leavenworth that represents the design trend of H. H. Richardson in the last decade of the nineteenth century. It is a fine example of the early work of its architect, William P. Feth, whose designs reflect architectural styles from the period 1890 to 1930. The nominated property is an important reminder of the history of the industrialization period and the people who played roles in it.

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Burt continued to lead the company as its president until his death on September 21, 1923. Burt's significance to the success of the Great Western Stove Company from 1875 until 1923 was in his apparent business sensibility. He was known as an astute business man who maintained an ethic of producing high quality products throughout his association with the company. His ability undoubtedly contributed to the prosperity of the company which, by the early 1900s had established branch offices in Omaha, Oklahoma City, Denver, Kansas City, Salt Lake City, and Seattle. Later accounts of Great Western Stove's success from its founding in 1875 equally attribute E.P. Willson and Nathaniel H. Burt. By the year 400 Fifth Avenue was constructed for Burt, the company was producing over 50,000 stoves per year.



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